

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05

H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 ACDA-07 TRSE-00 OMB-01

/100 W

-----130527 061906Z /45

R 051517Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7097

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE//POLAT/J-2

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DAKAR ALSO FOR USDAO

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR PINS MR ML

SUBJECT: DEFENSE MINISTER'S POSITION ON POLISARIO

1. IN THE COURSE OF A CALL ON DEFENSE MINISTER KISSIMA DOUKARA

AUGUST 3, DEFENSE ATTACHE LIEUTENANT COLONEL RICHARD HUGHES ASKED
WHETHER ANY FORMAL OR INFORMAL ARRANGEMENT EXISTED BETWEEN MALI AND
MAURITANIA CONCERNING THE POLISARIO.

2. DOUKARA REPLIED WITH AN EMPHATIC "NO.". HE THEN WENT ON TO SAY,
IN CONVOLUTED TERMS, THAT THERE WAS NOTHING BEYOND MALI'S FIRM
ADHERENCE TO THE FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLE OF RESPECT FOR THE TERRI-
TORY OF AFRICAN STATES. MALI WOULD NOT ALLOW ITS LAND
TO BE USED TO DEROGATE FROM THE TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF A NEIGH-
BORING COUNTRY. BUT BASICALLY, HE SAID, MALI DID NOT WISH TO GET
INVOLVED IN THE CONFLICTS OF OTHERS. IT HAD ENOUGH PROBLEMS OF
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SECURITY WITHIN ITS OWN BORDERS AND COULD NOT TAKE ON ANY OTHERS
ELSEWHERE. MALI, WAS, HE SAID, MORE OR LESS "A SPECTATOR" IN THE
SAHARA AFFAIR.

3. TO THE AMBASSADOR'S QUESTION AS TO WHETHER MALI WOULD REMAIN "A
SPECTATOR" IF THE POLISARIO WERE OPERATING WITHIN MALIAN FRONTIERS,
THE DEFENSE MINISTER RESPONDED WITH ANOTHER EMPHATIC "OH, NO, THAT

WOULD BE A DIFFERENT MATTER." BUT ONE FIRST HAD THE PROBLEM OF SPOTTING THEM, HE SAID; THE COUNTRY WAS VAST AND MALI DID NOT HAVE THE MEANS TO PATROL ALL OF IT. NEVERTHELESS, MALI WOULD NOT TOLERATE, WOULD NOT PERMIT, AND WOULD PROSECUTE ANY INFRINGEMENT OF ITS TERRITORY. DOUKARA INITIALLY SAID HE HAD SO WARNED IN A LETTER TO THE POLISARIO, BUT HE LATER AMENDED THAT STATEMENT TO SAY HE HAD SO INSTRUCTED ALL HIS UNIT COMMANDERS AND HE WAS SURE THE POLISARIO WERE COMPLETELY AWARE OF HIS ORDERS TO HIS FORCES.

4. COMMENT: IT IS HARD TO PIN DEFENSE MINISTER KOUKARA DOWN.
BYRNE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 05-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
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TAGS: MARR, PINS, MR, ML, POLISARIO, (DOUKARA, KISSIMA)
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